

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner required a restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to one of the following inventions:

- I. Claims 1 and 7, drawn to articles; or
- II. Claims 3-6, drawn to processes.

The Examiner states that the inventions of Groups I and II, above, are related because the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product, e.g., image with a heat stylus without first heating the recording layer to a fused state.

In a Petition filed concurrently herewith, applicants have petitioned the Commissioner to withdraw the restriction/election requirement as improper. The Examiner has admitted that there is no serious burden to examining the claims together, because they have already been examined together. Under MPEP § 803, the Examiner must examine the claims together.

With strong traverse of the Examiner's restriction/election requirement, as stated in the official Office Action dated August 29, 2001, should the requirement be upheld upon applicants' Petition, the applicants elect the claims of Group II, i.e., claims 3-6, drawn to the processes, along with the species of claim 5, for prosecution in the present application.

As will be seen by the above amendments, claim 5 has been amended to delete the dependency on claim 1. For the convenience of the Examiner, a marked-up copy showing the changes made to claim 5 is attached.

Applicants specifically reserve the right to file a divisional application to the non-elected claims.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the restriction/election requirement of the

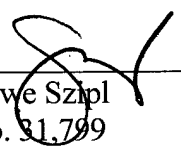
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Examiner be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance, and the Examiner's early and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited. Questions are welcomed by the below-signed attorney for applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

5. (Twice Amended) A method of writing information onto a reversible heat sensitive paper ~~according to claim 1~~, comprising positioning an exposing mask between a light source and the reversible heat sensitive paper, transmitting light through the mask and focusing light on the reversible heat-sensitive paper, whereby two dimensional information is written.